

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle Ages Research Project

## Topics

1. Between 400 and 700 AD, **Germanic tribes** ruled most of Western Europe. Who were these tribes and what influences (think religion, art, culture, etc.) did they have on the Early Middle Ages?
2. Around 800 AD, Western Europe was united by **Charlemagne** (Charles the Great). Though his reign was short--46 years--Charlemagne's influence was seen in religion, education and government. Explain several of his influences in these three areas.
3. The **Vikings** played a major role in the development of Europe in the Early Middle Ages. Who were the Vikings and what were their major contributions during this time period?
4. **Feudalism** is the term used to describe a system of government that emerged during the Early Middle Ages. Explain the structure and levels of a Feudal society. Who belonged at each level and how did they live?
5. **Eleanor of Aquitaine** (1122-1204) has been called the "Grandmother of Europe" because she made many contributions to European growth in the Middle Ages. Discuss three of her contributions and the effect they had on this time period.
6. The knights' **code of chivalry** has many things in common with today's idea of good sportsmanship. List four ideas that the code of chivalry and good sportsmanship have in common. Explain how these ideas pertained to the knights of the Middle Ages.
7. The **Benedictine Rule** was a set of rules to regulate monastic life. Who developed these rules, why were they developed, who used them and what was their influence on the Middle Ages?
8. The success of the medieval church did not come without some problems. Several reform movements were started to address these problems. **Francis of Assisi** was the leader of one of these reforms. Who was Francis of Assisi, how is he portrayed, what were his reforms, and how did his ideas differ from the norm?
9. What was the **Norman Conquest**? Who were the prominent participants and how did it affect Europe in the High Middle Ages?
10. The monarchs of this time set out to increase royal power. Two examples are the **Domesday Book** and **common law**. Explain what these were and how they increased the monarchs' powers.
11. Why was the **Magna Carta** developed? What were some of the most important clauses in the Magna Carta? What influences of the Magna Carta do we still see today?
12. During the 1200s, the "Great Council" evolved into **Parliament**. What was Parliament, who was in Parliament, and how does it still influence us today?
13. In 1302, Philip the IV established the "**Estates General**." How was it similar to Parliament and how did it differ?

14. In this time period, there are many examples of struggle for power between popes and the emperors. The result of one of these feuds was the “**Concordat of Worms**.” What were the circumstances that brought about the “Concordat of Worms?” Who was involved? What was the result?
15. **Pope Innocent III** is thought of as one of the most powerful popes of this time. Name three of his major accomplishments and how they affected this time period.
16. Between 1096 and 1204 AD, there were four Crusades. The **First Crusade** is thought to be the most successful from a European perspective. What was the First Crusade? Who was involved and why were they involved?
17. The **Crusades** played a major role in economic expansion in Europe. How did the Crusades affect economic expansion and what are some of the long-lasting results?
18. The marriage of Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon set in motion the “**Reconquista**” in Spain. What was the “Reconquista?” What were three results of the successful “Reconquista”?
19. During the Middle Ages, many schools were set up. What were **medieval schools** like? Who attended the schools and what did they study? What else was interesting about medieval schools?
20. When people were sick in the Middle Ages, to whom did they go to for treatment? What medical procedures were common during this time? What was used for **medieval medicine**? Did magic play a role in medicine?
21. Who was **Genghis Khan**? Why is he important to the Middle Ages? What was life like for the people he ruled?
22. Many people in the Middle Ages lived in **manors**. What is a manor? Who lived there? What happened on a manor?
23. Explain the **Great Schism**. What was it? How did it affect the people involved? Why is it an important event in the Middle Ages?
24. What were **guilds**? What was the structure of a guild? Who belonged to a guild? Why was it important to commerce of the Middle Ages?
25. The life of a **Noblewoman** was vastly different from that of **peasant women**. What roles did Noblewomen play in the royal court? What was life like for peasant women? What kinds of jobs could women hold?
26. Who was **Marco Polo**? Describe his impact on trade during the medieval era? How do you think this impact revived the manorial economies of Western Europe?
27. Discuss the causes of the **plague**. How did the plague spread throughout Europe? What were some of the symptoms of the plague? How did medieval doctors treat the illness? What were some of the after-effects of the plague?